

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A connector, comprising:
a housing ~~(20)~~ connectable with a mating housing ~~(10)~~;
at least one locking means ~~(35)~~ on the housing ~~(20)~~ for locking the two housings ~~(20, 10)~~ together;

a slider ~~(50)~~ on the housing ~~(20)~~ and movable substantially along a connecting direction ~~(GD)~~ of the housings ~~(20, 10)~~ between a prevention area where cancellation of the locked state by the locking means ~~(35)~~ is prevented and a permission area where cancellation of the locked state by the locking means ~~(35)~~ is permitted; and

fixing means ~~(45, 59, 45c, 59c; 45A, 59A, 45Ac, 59Ac)~~ between the housing ~~(20)~~ and the slider ~~(50)~~ for fixing the slider ~~(50)~~ in the prevention area, wherein the fixing means between the housing and the slider includes holes substantially alignable with each other when the two housings are connected with each other and when the slider is in the prevention area and a fixing member being insertable through the holes to immovably fix the slider.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the locking means ~~(35)~~ include a lock arm ~~(35)~~ on the housing ~~(20)~~ for engaging a lock ~~(15)~~ of the mating housing ~~(10)~~ when a substantially properly connected state is reached.

4. (currently amended) The connector of claim 3, wherein an unlocking portion ~~(37; 51)~~ is provided on at least one of the slider ~~(50)~~ and the lock arm

~~(35)~~ for disengaging the lock arm ~~(35)~~ from the lock ~~(15)~~ as the slider ~~(50)~~ is moved from the prevention area toward the permission area.

5. (currently amended) The connector of claim 4, wherein the lock arm ~~(35)~~ is displaceable while moving onto the lock ~~(15)~~ during connection of the housings ~~(20, 10)~~.

6. (currently amended) The connector of claim 4, wherein the slider ~~(50)~~ comprises a protecting portion ~~(60)~~ capable of at least partly covering a rear end of the locking means ~~(35)~~ when the slider ~~(50)~~ is in the preventing area.

7. (currently amended) The connector of claim 6, wherein the protecting portion is dimensioned for at least partly covering the unlocking portion ~~(37; 51)~~.

8. (currently amended) A connector assembly, comprising:
a first housing ~~(20)~~ connectable with a second housing ~~(10)~~;
at least one locking means ~~(35)~~ on the first housing ~~(20)~~ for locking the two housings ~~(20, 10)~~ together;

a slider ~~(50)~~ on the first housing ~~(20)~~ and movable substantially along a connecting direction ~~(CD)~~ of the housings ~~(20, 10)~~ between a prevention area where cancellation of the locked state by the locking means ~~(35)~~ is prevented and a permission area where cancellation of the locked state by the locking means ~~(35)~~ is permitted; and

fixing means ~~(45, 50, 45c, 50c; 45A, 50A, 45Ac, 50Ac)~~ between the first housing ~~(20)~~ and the slider ~~(50)~~ for fixing the slider ~~(50)~~ in the prevention area, wherein the fixing means is provided between at least one of the first and second housings and

the slider, the fixing means including holes substantially alignable with each other when the first and second connector housings are connected with each other and when the slider is located in the prevention area and a fixing member being insertable through the holes to immovably fix the slider.

9. (canceled).

10. (canceled).